

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: GENERAL KRIS ON THE INSURGENCY

AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION FOLLOWS OF REMARKS
ON THE INSURGENCY MADE BY GENERAL KRIS SIVARA, ROYAL THAI ARMY
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AT A MARCH 25 PRESS CONFERENCE:

REPORTER: WILL YOU PLEASE MAKE A STATEMENT ON SUPPRESSION OF
COMMUNIST TERRORISTS SINCE YOU ARE THE DIRECTOR NOW.

KRIS: I HAVEN'T TAKEN OVER THAT POSITION YET; THE APPOINTMENT
HAS BEEN JUST APPROVED ONLY. THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISCLOSED
YET BUT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE CONSIDERED THAT A STATEMENT
SHOULD BE MADE IN ORDER TO BOOST THE MORALE OF ALL PERSONS ATTACHED
TO CSOC, BUT I HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPOINTED TO THAT POSITION
YET.

REPORTER: WHAT METHODS HAVE YOU PLANNED IN REGARD TO SUPPRESSION
WORK?

KRIS: IT IS MAINLY A WAR TO WIN OVER THE PEOPLE; IF A LARGE MAJORITY
OF THE PEOPLE SIDE WITH US IT CAN BE CONSIDERED THAT A VICTORY
HAS BEEN WON.

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REPORTER: CAN THE TERRORIST SITUATION BE CONSIDERED AS BEING VERY

VIOLENT AT PRESENT?

KRIS: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER IT IS INCREASINGLY VIOLENT OR NOT BECAUSE IT DIFFERS AT TIMES. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN I GO AND VISIT OUR TROOPS, AT TIMES I FIND THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE INCREASE, THEN THERE WILL BE A LULL, AND THIS IS THE SAME SITUATION THAT CAN BE SEEN EVERY YEAR. AT TIMES THERE IS A LONG LULL, THEN WHEN CLASHES AND INCIDENTS OCCUR THEY ARE APT TO OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY IN SEVERAL PLACES. CLASHES AND LOSS OF LIFE SUFFERED ARE VERY SIMILAR EVERY YEAR, BUT IF YOU COULD SEE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH OUR TROOPS ARE KILLED YOU WOULD FEEL DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THEM. IN REGARD TO THE BAN NA SAI INCIDENT WHERE OUR TROOPS ARE CENSURED FOR SHOOTING IN SUPPRESSION WORK, I WISH YOU COULD SEE OUR TROOPS WHO ARE WOUNDED AND KILLED IN TERRORIST SUPPRESSION WORK; YOU WOULD SEE HOW OUR WOUNDED SUFFER LOSSES OF LEGS AND ARMS, NOT TO MENTION THOSE KILLED. THIS IS A SIGHT THAT CAN BE SEEN IN HIN KONG KLA, IN NAN, IN CHIANG KHAM, WHERE OVER 120 OF OUR MEN LIE WOUNDED ON THE GROUND, AND THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE IN NAN HOSPITAL, IN CHIANG KHAM HOSPITAL, AND IN PHITSANULOK HOSPITAL.

REPORTER: HAS TESTING THE PROJECT TO USE PERSUASION, THEN SUPPRESSION, OBTAINED GOOD RESULTS?

KRIS: THAT PROJECT HAS BEEN CARRIED ON, NOT TESTED, FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME, BUT IN THE PAST PERSUASION AND SUPPRESSION WERE CARRIED ON SEPARATELY. THE PERSONS IN CHARGE OF USING PERSUASION CONCENTRATED ON PERSUASION ONLY, WHILE THE PERSONS IN CHARGE OF SUPPRESSION WORK CONCENTRATED ON SUPPRESSION WORK. FOR EXAMPLE, CSOC WAS IN CHARGE OF SUPPRESSION WORK ONLY. THAT WAS WHY WE WERE AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE WAR TO WIN OVER THE PEOPLE. NOW A PLAN IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICE OF ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE JOINED TO CSOC. THIS MEANS THAT THE SAME PERSON WILL CARRY BOTH A BIG STICK AND MONEY. I BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL OBTAIN BETTER RESULTS BECAUSE THE PLAN WILL BE THE SAME ONE, NOT CARRIED OUT SEPARATELY AS IN THE PAST. THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE'S MOBILE DEVELOPMENT UNITS, WHICH ARE ATTACHED TO THE SUPREME COMMAND, FORMERLY PERFORMED THE WORK ENTRUSTED TO IT, WHILE SUPPRESSION UNITS CARRIED ON SUPPRESSION WORK, AND THEY WORKED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS IN WHICH

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THERE WAS NO COORDINATION. I FEEL THAT ONCE ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILE DEVELOPMENT UNITS ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF SUPPRESSION WORK, SATISFACTORY RESULTS WILL BE OBTAINED. IT IS A FACT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE TO RESORT TO SUPPRESSION, THAT PERSUASION CAN BE USED. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, OF WELLS, IN DOING VARIOUS THINGS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN VILLAGES AND IN RURAL AREAS. AND WHEN THE PEOPLE

SEE AND REALIZE THIS, WHAT NEED WILL THERE BE TO HAVE TO CARRY ON SUPPRESSION WORK OR TO SHOOT THEM? WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO SHOOT ANYBODY AT ALL. FOR INSTANCE, SHOULD SAY 10 PERSONS BE SHOT AND KILLED ON SUSPICION OF BEING TERRORISTS, SHOULD EVEN ONLY ONE OF THOSE 10 PERSONS BE AN INNOCENT MAN WE WOULD FEEL VERY SAD AND DEEPLY DEPLORE HIS LOSS.

REPORTER: DO YOU FEEL ANY WORRIES AND ANXIETY IN REGARDS TO YOUR NEW POSITION?

KRIS: OF COURSE I DO BECAUSE THE WORK IS VERY HEAVY. FOR INSTANCE, WORK OF CSOC IS VERY HEAVY, MY DUTIES AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY ARE A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY AND NOW I HAVE TO TAKE UP THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF CSOC ALSO. BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN TURNED OVER TO ME YET SO IT IS NOT CERTAIN YET. THERE MIGHT BE A CHANGE OF MIND ON THE PART OF OUR ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERS BECAUSE NO DEFINITE ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED YET. BUT I FEEL WORRY AND ANXIETY.

REPORTER: OVER WHAT MATTERS? COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT CAUSES YOU WORRY AND ANXIETY?

KRIS: MY WORRY IS OVER WHAT WE COULD DO SO AS NOT TO HAVE TO RESORT TO SUPPRESSION, HOW WE COULD WIN THE PEOPLE OVER TO OUR SIDE WITH NO NEED TO USE WEAPONS, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO KILL OUR OWN PEOPLE.

REPORTER: DO YOU FEEL WORRY OVER THE REPORT THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAVE COME AND STATIONED THEMSELVES OPPOSITE NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE, AT A POINT ONLY 20 KILOMETERS FROM IT?

KRIS: I DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THAT BECAUSE IT CONCERNS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND HE HAS MADE A STATEMENT ON IT ALREADY. BOTH THE PROBLEM OF KARENS AND OF NORTH VIETNAM CONCERN THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE BECAUSE THEY ARE MATTERS OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF MY RESPONSIBILITY.
KINTNER

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